Qualification of the Director of Information.

41. * **Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair:** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the qualifications of the present Director of Information which entitle him to hold the present office ; and

(*b*) whether there were other applicants for the place of the Director of Information, and, if so, will they be pleased to lay on the table a list of such applicants with their qualifications ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: (*a*) The present Director of Information is an undergraduate. He has had considerable experience in journalism having served several important newspapers and news agencies in India.

(*b*) *First part* : No.

Second part : This does not arise in view of the answer to the first part.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know whether the present Director of Information knows photography ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: Yes he knows, Sir.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know the amount he was getting as pay before he was appointed to his present post ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: He was getting a definite pay as well as remuneration from different papers with which he was connected.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know whether he was fined Rs. 5 for writing bad English by a certain journal ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai : No, Sir, that has not come to the notice of Government.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know the approximate length of films that is being utilised by the Director of Information per month for taking photos ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai : I claim notice, Sir.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : May I know whether he knows piano tuning ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: I believe he knows that too, he is however competent to supervise and control the work.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know whether he has done piano tuning before he was appointed Director of Information ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: He was, as I said, efficient to control that work.

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Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know whether Government have ascertained the ability and capacity of this particular officer before he was appointed ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: Before he was appointed, Government were convinced of his competency and ability.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know whether the Director of Information has supervised piano tuning in the Women's College and whether complaints were raised that the pianos were not tuned well ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: Government have not received any such complaints.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know the number of photographs that are in the custody of the Director of Information ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: I cannot give the exact number. I claim notice.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know from Government whether the large number of photographic materials including the negatives and other articles are left under the control of the Director of Information ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: All the photos and other articles pertaining to photography which were in possession of the department before the appointment of the present Director of Information and also that are purchased subsequently, are left under the custody and control of the Director of Information.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know whether the Director of Information has sold negatives of photos taken as early as 1075 ?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: Government are not aware of that.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know whether Government have taken stock of the materials under the custody of the Director of Information ?

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan (*Pro Vice Chancellor, Travancore University*): Sir, on a point of order, I wish to know whether the member is in order to put all these questions which are not relevant or supplementary to the original question.

President: As a lot of curiosity was evinced by the interpellator about the Director of Information, I did not want to rule it out of order. Most of these questions are irrelevant and the last one offensive and defamatory.

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